

REMARKS

The final Office Action dated March 29, 2005, has been carefully considered. Claims 20-37 are pending in the present application after entry of this amendment. Claims 1-16 and 18-19 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants respectfully reserve their right to prosecute these claims in a continuation application of the present application. These new claims are fully supported by the specification at, for example, original claims 1-16 and 18-19, and do not introduce new matter.

Entry of the above amendments and reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

The Examiner has stated that claims 11, 13, and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 20. Thus, claim 20 is believed to be in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 21-33 depend from claim 20 and, therefore, also are believed to be allowable. The subject matter of claim 11 has also been incorporated into claims 18 and 19 which have been rewritten as claims 34 and 36, respectively.

Since claim 11 was found to be allowable, it is believed that new claims 20, 34, and 36, and the claims depending therefrom are also allowable. Thus, it is believed that this objection has been overcome and that claims 20-37 are allowable. Accordingly, entry of these amendments and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A)

Claims 1-10, 12, 15-16 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,355,058 to Pacetti in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,749,125 to Escallon and U.S. Patent No. 4,550,957 to Cobbs, Jr. Although Applicants disagree with this rejection, claims 1-10, 12, 15-16, and 18-19 have been cancelled without prejudice to expedite the prosecution of this application. The cancellation of these claims obviates the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). As discussed above, it is believed that new claims 20-37 are allowable over the references cited herein.

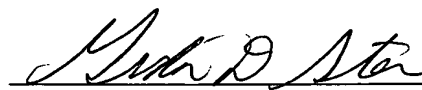
III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, pending claims 20-37 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully

requested. An early notice to that effect would be appreciated. Should the Examiner not agree with Applicants' position, then a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the eventual allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures